

Washougal River Watershed

Little Washougal River

The Little Washougal River originates in private and public forestlands east of Camp Bonneville Military Reservation. Boulder and Jones creeks are its two main tributaries. After its confluence with Jones and Boulder creeks, the Little Washougal River flows through rural and forested lands. Nearly 70 percent of the basin is forest. The remainder is 18 percent grass, fields, and shrubs, and 12 percent residences, farmsteads, and cleared forest.

Little Washougal River stream health is excellent in its forested headwaters. In fact, it is so good that the city of Camas uses its tributaries — Jones and Boulder creeks — for drinking water. Stream health appears to decline considerably near where the Little Washougal River joins the Washougal River. Streamside trees provide cooling shade for most of the stream, but there are lower sections that lack good shade.

Management objectives for the Little Washougal River

- Protecting its current health
- Keeping existing forest lands as timberlands
- Reforesting unused farm land
- Planting streamside trees in some areas
- Using methods of residential construction that minimize runoff



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Stream Health 2003

Stream Health Ratings	Description	Land Cover Key
Excellent	Pristine, superior, or unsurpassed condition; minimal human disturbance	Forest
Good	Healthy enough to support aquatic life and recreation	Grass/Shrubs
Fair	Degraded but may support aquatic life and recreation	Residential/Recently cleared land
Poor	Inferior health, poorly suited for aquatic life and recreation	Commercial/Industrial
Very Poor	Severely degraded health; unsuitable for aquatic life or recreation	
Unassessed	No data collected	
Probable	Predicted stream health	

Cougar Creek

Cougar Creek is the second largest tributary in the portion of Washougal River that is in Clark County. It flows from forested areas in the foothills of the Cascade Mountains into the Washougal River. A waterfall located 600 feet upstream from the mouth of the creek blocks salmon and steelhead migration.

The Cougar Creek subbasin is approximately 80 percent private and public forest and 13 percent grass and shrubs. The remainder is cleared forest and rural residential areas.

While there is no stream health data available for Cougar Creek, the large amount of forest and lack of significant development suggest its health is good, possibly excellent. Any potential stream health problems are probably associated with forest clearing, erosion from gravel roads, or runoff from rural residential areas.

Management objectives for the Cougar Creek

- Retaining the current level of forest cover
- Using good forest management practices